



Board to Promote Self-Sufficiency

6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite 300 • Columbia, MD 21046

Minutes of the June 26, 2014 Meeting

Attendance

Appointed Members: Mike Couch, Joan Driessen, Andrea Ingram, Stephen Martin, Richard Ohnmacht

Ex Officio Members: Patty Keeton, Lois Mikkila, Ronna Gotthainer, Karen Butler, Diane Martin, Fran Trout, Jack Kavanagh, Tom Carbo

Staff: Vidia Dhanraj, Michelle Hippert

Meeting called to order at 09:10 a.m. by Patty Keeton, Chairperson.

Minutes of the May 22, 2014 meeting were approved as submitted.

The following Guiding Principles for the Board were approved by unanimous vote:

1. Maximizes the unique opportunity for collective impact
2. Promotes planning and decision making guided by the people we serve
3. Focuses on prevention and creating pathways to long term stability
4. Is informed by reliable data and best practices

The Nominating Committee proposed Mike Couch to serve as Chair and Tom Carbo as Vice Chair, for an annual term starting July 1, 2014. Both were elected unanimously.

The Board will not meet over the summer. The Board will convene on Thursday, September 25 and will meet on October 23, and December 4. Board members should mark their 2015 calendars for regularly scheduled Board meetings on the 4th Thursday of every month.

Discussion:

- Lois Mikkila provided a breakdown of the funding included in the Howard County FY15 budget for the Plan to End Homelessness and the Getting Ahead initiative, and shared copies of the report DCS submitted to the County Executive in January regarding the Coordinated System of Homeless Services (CSHS).
- Term limits were reviewed and it was noted that Matt Poole and Jane O'Leary will be up for renewal in November, 2014.
- The Board's connection to the Howard County Continuum of Care (CoC) needs to be strengthened as federal CoC mandates and local Plan to End Homelessness activities advance. A proposal for a CoC Steering committee is being developed, and will be submitted to the Board for review at the September Board meeting.

Strategic Plan Status:

- Objective 1.2 - The Board will review community data bi-annually, in October and April.
- Objective 1.3 – Having a transportation representative and active client participation on the Board was discussed as an outstanding need. Leads for both are being explored.
- Objective 1.4 - A calendar of Board activities will be reviewed at the September Board meeting and will outline Board tasks that need to occur on an annual basis and will include the evaluation of the committees and their work as it relates to Board priorities.
- Objective 2.1 - A work group will conduct a community survey that will provide an environmental scan of gaps and barriers for families and individuals trying to achieve economic stability. The survey will be

completed by the community in the summer and the work group will present the findings at the September Board meeting. Joan Driessen, Andrea Ingram and Stephen Martin will serve on the work group.

- Objective 2.2 – The Board currently has the following committees: Getting Ahead, Evaluation and Resource Allocation (ERA), Employment and Financial committees. Mike Couch announced that the Financial Committee is dormant and he will release a statement on what has been accomplished and provide minutes.
- Objective 3.1 - A work group will be convened to begin development of a communications plan, focusing on 1) what information we are trying to share regarding the Board's work, 2) who we are trying to influence, and 3) what, if any, "call to action" should be included. Patty Keeton, Lois Mikkila, Diane Martin and Mike Couch will serve on the work group.
- Objective 3.2 - Lois Mikkila received an inquiry from the County Council on a blog posted by Tom Coale related to student hunger. Diane Martin noted that more food programs exist in the schools than the article suggests. She will provide further information regarding what HCPSS is doing, and Mike Couch will follow up with Bitia Dayhoff regarding the Community Action Council's efforts. Both will forward information to Lois, so she can further respond to the County Council.

Meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Next meeting: September 25, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Michelle Hippert